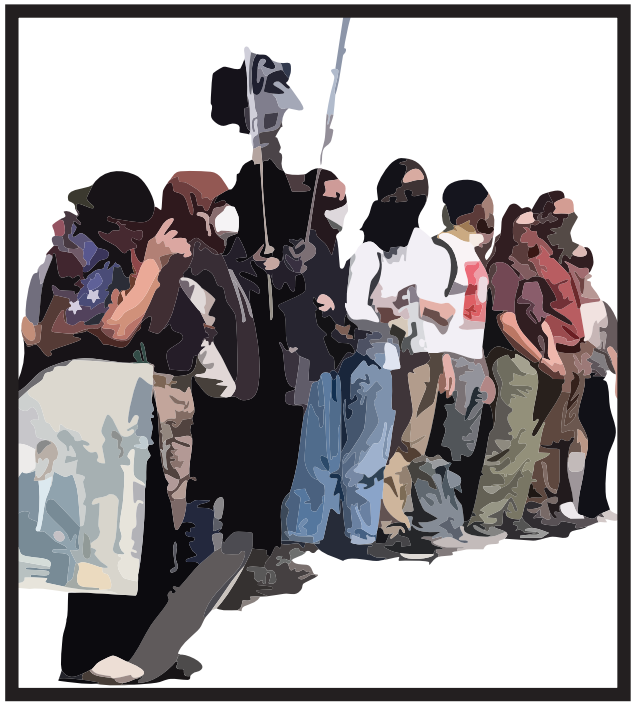
"The people simply could not be contained ... Keep eyes on Los Angeles. We won't back down."

TO LIVE AND FIGHT IN LOS ANGELES



AN INTERVIEW WITH PEOPLE'S CITY COUNCIL ON THE STREET MOBILIZATION AGAINST ICE

BY IT'S GOING DOWN

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IT'S GOING DOWN

It's Going Down is a digital community center and media platform featuring news, opinion, podcasts, and reporting on autonomous movements across so-called North America from an anarchist perspective.

PEOPLE'S CITY COUNCIL LOS ANGELES

People's City Council is an abolitionist, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist collective amplifying the peoples' voice through direct action, political education, and community space. Find them via https://peoplescitycouncil-la.com.

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PCC: Yes. They can and they will. We are currently seeing the expansion of the surveillance state and repression. Right now in LA we are seeing targeted arrests and house raids of organizers, warrants, wiretaps, grand juries, etc. They are attempting to cast a broad net. This is reminiscent (and as we have all been warning) of how the State went after the Stop Cop City movement.

Alejandro Orellana, an organizer with local org Centro CSO, is facing federal charges for allegedly passing out face shields and water bottles to demonstrators at a protest.[17] Another Centro organizer, Verita Topete, was ambushed by the FBI in a park and had her phone seized.[18]

Fascist US Attorney, Bill Essayli, is using his platform to target organizers and threaten those who are willing to take action to defend their neighbors. Essayli tweeted out a false statement about Adrian Martinez, stating he was arrested for punching a CBP agent in the face, though no assault charges were ever filed.

With all that we know and with the 2028 Olympics approaching, we can surely expect things to continue to ratchet up in Los Angeles.

Keep eyes on LA. We won't back down. "We keep us safe" is the spirit of the city.

17 https://boyleheightsbeat.com/what-we-know-charges-against-east-l-a-activist-alejandro-orellana/

18 https://fightbacknews.org/articles/east-la-rally-against-fbi-attacks-on-alejandro-orellana-and-verita-topete

and witnessed LAPD come to back up ICE agents who were being confronted by community members. We later found out that this is where the feds were taking arrestees to transfer them to different detention centers. An American citizen, Job Garcia, who was arrested that day, spoke to the media and said he "was among 30 detainees who were brought to Dodger Stadium where federal agents verified his America citizenship. He said the stadium is reportedly being used as a hub for detainees."[15]

Job was held at the same detention facility as our young hero Adrian Martinez. "You're the Walmart kid, right?" he asked him. Garcia told him what had unfolded outside the Home Depot. "That's exactly what happened to me," he said Martinez told him. "They were bullying this older guy. I didn't like that so I went and confronted them and they put their hands on me and I pushed their hands off."

The Dodgers came out with a statement saying that they had not allowed ICE to "use the parking lots." However this is bullshit semantics. Federal agents were seen using the stadium entrance roads to stage for their operations. They may not have literally been "in the parking lot," but they were certainly at Dodger Stadium. They attempted to get control of the narrative, however, what we saw with our own eyes and the story from Job Garcia the next day, we know what was really happening there.

This is connected to a long history of displacement at Dodger Stadium: the residents of Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop were all forcefully evicted and their homes destroyed in the 1950s to make way for Dodger Stadium.[16]

IGD: Do you think the State can continue this level of activity? Where do things go from here?

15 https://ktla.com/news/local-news/u-s-citizen-detained-in-hollywood-immigration-raid-speaks-out/

16 https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/chavez-ravine-evictions/

In early June 2025, demonstrations exploded after ICE carried out militarized raids in working-class communities and workplaces in Los Angeles, CA, leading to large confrontations between ICE, the LAPD, and angry community members who rallied in defense of imprisoned family members and neighbors[1]. The next day, confrontations again erupted, after ICE agents attacked protesters outside of a Home Depot, while people bravely defended their neighborhood from violent raids. The following day, Trump federalized several hundred National Guard soldiers, sending them to guard a downtown federal building, as clashes exploded in the streets between demonstrators and law enforcement, followed by the Mayor putting in place a curfew, as police violently attacked protesters and journalists.

But while the spectacular battles in the streets have died down, the organizing on the ground has not. On July 1st, hundreds responded to a call from the Los Angeles Tenants Union (LATU) to hold demonstrations against ongoing ICE activity in the city, as mutual aid groups mobilized to support those too afraid to go outside and work[2], demonstrators continued to rally outside of local hotels, demanding that ICE agents be kicked out, and community defense hubs have sprung up outside of Home Depot stores and beyond. Clashes between ICE and community members have also remained ongoing; a recent raid by ICE in one working-class city in LA county led to local residents damaging DHS vehicles and pushing out federal agents.

Wanting to get a better sense of the scope of this deepening organizing happening on the ground in Los Angeles, we sat down with a participant involved in the People's City Council, an "abolitionist, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist collective" that is reporting from the streets of southern California on the unfolding wave of activity against ICE and beyond.

1 For on-the-ground reports: https://itsgoingdown.org/national-guard-la-ice/

2 https://lapublicpress.org/2025/06/street-vendors-hiding-after-ice-raids/

IGD: There's been a lot written[3] about the initial demonstrations which kicked off in early June, but what's the big picture of what's been happening on the streets of LA?

People's City Council: First, it's important to understand that yes, there may be some spontaneous combustion in LA, but also that this moment has been brewing, combined with the on-going multi-generational organizing efforts here.

And as we saw in February with the high school student walkouts[4], many of those you see out in the streets are young people. It makes sense considering there a lot of local kids that grew up here who likely either have a parent, relative, or neighbor that the State would classify as "illegal." The sentiment of "this is an attack on us, on our people" is widespread in the city. So, folks are upset and hitting the streets and are taking action to show that LA will not back down. It's been inspiring to see how people are resisting. We are very proud of everyone out there, especially the young people who continue to show up.

What we are seeing right now cannot be understood without recognizing the impact of how organizers responded during the fires in January[5], the city showing up alongside young people getting active during the 2024 student intifada[6], the 2020 uprising, the decade long block by block tenant organizing spearheaded by LA Tenants Union[7], and the mutual aid efforts in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that have grown and saved lives across the city and county. There is a direct lineage and connection to both these modern events and

3 See, for example: Ill Will, "Fire and Ice: Lessons From the Battle of Los Angeles"; Heatwave Mag, "Revolt and Representation: A View from the Battle for Los Angeles"; CrimethInc., "Los Angeles Stands up to ICE," and ediciones inéditas, "Fuck I.C.E. City-Wide: Los Angeles Goes Up."

4 https://www.welcometohellworld.com/the-long-radical-tradition-of-los-angeles-protests/

5 https://itsgoingdown.org/report-from-los-angeles-mutual-aid-hubs-fires/

6 https://itsgoingdown.org/the-cops-brought-guns-ucla-report/

7 https://itsgoingdown.org/as-unemployment-reaches-depression-era-levels-autonomous-tenant-movement-seems-poised-to-explode/

PCC: This is the most frustrating and hilarious part about most of the media coverage. The majority of the violence targeting protesters and people defending their neighbors has been from LAPD. LA Mayor Bass and Newsom are cosplaying as leaders and saying they want Trump out, when in reality they just want to be the ones to shut down the people in the streets.

Elected officials and media are obscuring the truth about what's happening. The mayor and LAPD try to say there is no coordination between the city and feds, however, their actions and statements from the feds indicate otherwise. LAPD was there, securing the perimeter for the federal immigration operation that set off this whole response on June 6th. Then during the demonstrations outside the detention center the night of June 6th, the LAPD and DHS were seen forming a joint skirmish line to push protesters back.

ICE even put out a statement saying "Our brave officers were vastly outnumbered, as over 1,000 rioters surrounded and attacked a federal building. It took over two hours for the Los Angeles Police Department to respond." So the coordination and collaboration has been there since day one of the raids. People should be offended by the gaslighting and lying coming from those in power. We can see with our own eyes what's really happening in LA.

Recently, LAPD arrested a local documentarian, Anthony Orendorff, during a federal kidnapping operation at a Home Depot in Pacoima. The LAPD held Anthony without bail for four days to punish him for documenting their collaboration. Charges were eventually rejected by the City Attorney. But this is the extent the State will go to hide and cover up what is happening in LA.

IGD: What happened with ICE using Dodger stadium?

PCC: Again, another example of shameless gaslighting by those in power and the media. The facts are: the feds were carrying out operations in the area near Dodger stadium. A bunch of fed vans were seen driving into Dodger Stadium. We were literally there

IGD: The mass media has largely focused on the interplay between California Governor Gavin Newsom and Trump, and the supposed legality (or not) of Trump federalizing National Guard troops and bringing in the Marines. What is the reality on the ground about the State's use of the military in Los Angeles?

PCC: The National Guard and Marines have mainly been stationed outside the federal buildings in Downtown and Westwood. We have seen the National Guard get involved with the protests when people attempt to approach the buildings but other than that, most of protest violence we've seen has come from LAPD. The first day the marines were in LA, they detained a Black man outside of the Veteran's Administration.

There was talk and threats of the Marines taking over MacArthur Park, sandwiched in-between Koreatown and Downtown, however that has seemed to die down, for now. Though, as mentioned above, I would not be surprised if this type of thing continues to be discussed leading up to the Olympics. This is all aligned with the city's assault on unhoused people and the plan to "clean up" the city ahead of 2028. Democrats and Republicans will continue to wield the police state in order to further their goals.

In many ways, the National Guard and Marines look just like LAPD and LASD. Our local police departments are "militarized" and it's evident for people out there who see the armored vehicles and weaponry. LAPD's crowd control training comes from military tactics and techniques. Just look at how the 1984 Olympics helped ramp up the militarization of LAPD.[14]

IGD: As you all have pointed out, much of the violence against the public has come directly from the LAPD. What are you seeing on the ground about the interplay and action between the police, ICE, and the military?

14 https://deadspin.com/the-1984-olympics-were-bad-for-poor-black-people-in-los-1797612842/

historic actions like the immigration rights protests in LA in 2006 and 1994, the 1968 Chicano Moratorium – and though the current moment has not reached the level of the 1992 LA Riots or the 1965 Watts Rebellion, there has certainly been flashes of similarities.

Families are being torn apart and our neighbors are being kidnapped right in front of us. It's no surprise that people are reacting the way they are. The events that have unfolded draw similarities to the beginnings of the First Intifada, where we see young people using whatever materials they have available to them to fight back and throw at the pigs. Though, of course, we've only seen a brief glimmer of rebellion and we are not yet in such a sustained historical moment.

The very first night outside the federal detention center on June 6th, we saw an hours long back and forth between federal agents and protesters. Despite the onslaught of pepper balls, tear gas, flash bangs, 'less lethals' and more from DHS/HSI[8] pigs, people in the streets did not back down and kept coming back for more. Rebellion was in the air that night. Note: this is not true for all groups/orgs there that night, non-profits and big unions such as SEIU and CHIRLA[9] were on a truck-bed chanting, "Shut it down!," but those groups ordered people to move away from the point of contention at the detention center. Hundreds followed. Hundreds stayed.

One of the most important pieces of this moment, which has not been talked about much, is that the people on the inside of the detention center have been able to look out at the rebellion on the outside. These expressions are meaningful and legitimately connected to the theory and praxis of tearing down the prison walls. Just a few days later on June 13th in New Jersey, captives at Delaney Hall literally tore down the prison walls during a prison break.

8 Department of Homeland Security/Homeland Security Investigations.

9 Service Employees International Union and the Coalition for Humane Immigration Rights, respectively.

There was a real spark of uprising that carried through the weekend. We saw people in Paramount and Compton first chase the feds out and away from their staging area and then engaged in a day long battle in the streets with the feds AND LA Sheriff's Department. The energy continued to grow into the following day where we saw tens of thousands out in downtown Los Angeles. It was a beautiful show of what happens when you overwhelm the pigs. People surrounded the detention center, others took over the freeway and engaged with California Highway Patrol (CHP), as many others were out maneuvering through the streets of downtown LA and put the LAPD on the run.

The people simply could not be contained. Because the pigs could not easily kettle protesters or push them in one direction, they were stuck and confused in the streets. As one group marched down the street with shields, advancing on the pigs, others were able to get the high ground on the police, allowing them to run across the Temple St. bridge and throw objects down at the pigs. Pretty much every building downtown was tagged with "FUCK ICE" and "ACAB" graffiti, Waymos[10] were set on fire, and CHP and LAPD cars were sabotaged and destroyed. We saw in real time a new set of rules, theory, and understanding being developed for those in the streets. People have begun to understand that the only thing that is going to stop these fascist monsters is ourselves.

There have been countless brave heroes like Adrian Andrew Martinez, the young man who was arrested by ICE while they attempted to grab his elderly co-worker in a Walmart parking lot. Adrian stepped up to stop the kidnapping attempt and was disappeared for 24 hours before his family could locate him at the federal detention center.

Though mainstream coverage of the "protests" has slowed down, it does not mean that the organizing and actions have stopped. The

10 Waymo is a project of Google, whose CEO Sundar Pichai attended Trump's inauguration. Waymo is also one of the frontline companies pushing automation (such as so-called self-driving vehicles) across the US, threatening blue-collar livelihoods.

raids have continued throughout the month of June. It's been an onslaught of attacks on our communities; targeting street vendors and day laborers, the heart of what makes Los Angeles such an amazing city. There is a strong grassroots base of folks, (born out of the Community Self Defense Coalition[11], led by Union del Barrio), across the city and county who are taking shifts patrolling their neighborhoods, beginning early in the morning. People are organizing "buyouts" for vendors so they have money to stay home and avoid danger. We've seen amazing creative actions outside of hotels where federal agents are sleeping at. These actions have been successful in either forcing ICE to flee/leave or some hotels even saying that they will not allow the feds to stay there. For more info, be sure to check out @no.sleep.for.ice on Instagram.

As one LA organizer said, "Life in LA right now: Wake up and clock in for your ICE Watch shift. Clock out and deliver groceries to your neighbors. Buy as much as you can from any street vendor you see. Recharge and strategize with your comrades. End the night, loud as hell outside a hotel where ICE sleeps."

Lastly, we have to center the importance of the Olympics. What many people don't understand is that Mayor Karen Bass and the city of Los Angeles are obligated to comply with the feds due to the 2028 Olympics. The Olympics are designated as "National Special Security Event" (NSSE)[13] which allows federal agencies like DHS, ICE, CBP, and Secret Service to coordinate "security" with local law enforcement. Mayor Bass cannot legitimately say "ICE out of LA," when she invited the feds to LA in January 2024. LAPD shares information with the feds through the joint terrorism task force and LAPD assists the feds by "securing the perimeter" during immigration raids. LAPD is essentially body guards for ICE during kidnapping operations. To read more about NSSE's, make sure to follow NOlympicsLA.

11 On instagram @communityselfdefensecoalition.

13 https://nolympicsla.com/2020/01/22/what-is-a-national-special-security-event-nsse/